

REMARKS

Specification

The objection to the specification should be withdrawn as the serial number of the Su application, filed concurrently with the present application on December 29, 2003, has now been added in the specification.

Claim Objections

The objections to claims 8 and 32 (the Action inadvertently states 31), have been taken care of as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The lack of clarity of the limitations of these claims has been resolved by amending the limitation of claim 4 to “wherein the type of nucleotide at each position in at least one of the labeled oligonucleotide probes is identified by an intensity of at least one of the unique signal molecules” and amending the limitation of claim 27 to “wherein the type of nucleotide at each position in at least one of the labeled probes is identified by an intensity of at least one of the unique signal molecules” and adding these amended limitations into claims 1 and 24, respectively. Please note that the phrase “number of copies” in claims 4 and 27 has been changed to “intensity” as the intensity of the unique signal molecule is dependent on the number of copies of the unique signal molecule. For example, if there are more copies of the unique signal molecule, the intensity by the unique signal molecule would be higher.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-10 and 24-34 were rejected under 35 USC 101. This rejection should be withdrawn as these claims now recite “isolated population of labeled” probes as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 24 were rejected as being anticipated by Gardner. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 25, 28, 31, 32 and 33 were rejected as being anticipated by Cronin. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 24, 25, 28-34 were rejected as being anticipated by Han. These rejections are respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn as claims 1 and 24 now contain the limitations of claims 4 and 27, respectively, amended to fix the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, issue.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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